

10/031,358

REMARKS

Claim 21 is are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Tabata '570; claim 22 is are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Tabata '570 and Toyoda; and claim 23 is are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Tabata '570 and Schneider '618. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

In view of the above claim cancellation of claims 21-23, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 17, 18 and 24-29 are allowed.

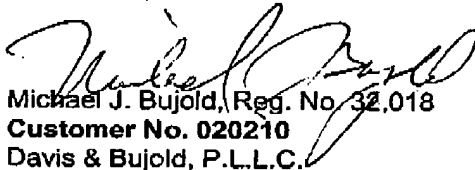
If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018
Customer No. 020210
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor
500 North Commercial Street
Manchester NH 03101-1151
Telephone 603-624-9220
Facsimile 603-624-9229
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com

7/7/04 - 11:23 AM